



**Embassy of the United States of America
Algiers, Algeria**

June 16, 2010

Ambassador David D. Pearce Opens American Corner in Ouargla

U.S. Ambassador to Algeria David D. Pearce visited the Wilaya of Ouargla on June 16, 2010. In the morning, Ambassador Pearce was received by the Wali of Ouargla, Mr. Ahmed Malfouf, and visited Kasdi Merbah University where he met the Rector, Mr. Ahmed Boutarfaia, to discuss opportunities for cooperation and exchange. In the afternoon, Ambassador Pearce officially opened the new American Corner of Ouargla. Located in Kasdi Merbah University, the American Corner is a space where students and other members of the community can gather to learn about the United States and its people, culture, history, and society. The Corner offers English, French, and Arabic books on various subjects including history, politics, economics, trade, media, sciences, education, and English language learning. The Corner also provides computers with free Internet access, a collection of reference CDs for those interested in doing research, and audiovisual equipment so guests can watch American movies and documentaries.

At the end of his visit, Ambassador Pearce attended the graduation ceremony of 40 students from Hassi ACCESS School of Ouargla, which opened its doors in 2004 and joined the ACCESS program in 2007. The ACCESS program provides English-language training for disadvantaged high school students, and is one of the Embassy's most successful programs. Ambassador Pearce was very impressed by the dynamic and proactive students and teachers of the Hassi ACCESS School, as well as by their excellent English skills.

It was great pleasure for the Ambassador to visit a city of such significant cultural and historic heritage, and to be received by such generous hosts. The Embassy extends its thanks to the Ouargla community for their hospitality, enthusiasm, and dedication to developing this important partnership.